Claims

1   1. A method for shipping/mailing articles
2   comprising the steps of:
3   generating shipping/mailing data for one of the
4   articles at one of a plurality of client terminals which
5   are linked to a host terminal, wherein generating
6   comprises information transfer between the client
7   terminal and the host terminal; and
8   producing the shipping/mailing data for generating a
9   shipper's label.

1   2. The method of claim 1, wherein producing
2   comprises printing the shipping/mailing data.

1   3. The method of claim 1, wherein producing
2   comprises encoding the shipping/mailing data in a 2-
3   dimensional bar code.

1   4. The method of claim 1, wherein producing
2   comprises encrypting the data.

1   5. The method of claim 1, wherein producing
2   comprises shuffling the data.

1   6. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2   shipping/mailing data comprises referring to an
3   electronic address book.

1   7. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2   shipping/mailing data comprises pasting from a clipboard.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 shipping/mailing data comprises selecting a carrier.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 shipping/mailing data comprises selecting a class of
3 service.

1   10.   The method of claim claim 1, wherein generating
2 the shipping/mailing data comprises referring to a
3 database of valid addresses for validation.

1   11.   The method of claim claim 10, wherein referring
2 to the database of valid addresses yields a proposed
3 address.

1   12.   The method of claim 1, wherein generating the
2 shipping/mailing data comprises address standardizing.

1   13.   The method of claim 12, wherein standardizing
2 takes into account how many lines an address has.

1   14.   The method of claim 10, wherein referring to a
2 database is effected for a batch of addresses.

1   15.   The method of claim 1, wherein an application
2 for servicing the client terminals keeps running even in
3 the absence of a request from a client terminal.

1   16.   The method of claim 15, wherein the host
2 terminal has a launcher application for keeping the
3 application running.

1   17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the
2 host terminal referring to a hardware key for enforcing
3 license compliance.

1   18. The method of claim 17, wherein license
2 compliance comprises compliance with a maximum number of
3 client terminals being serviced by the host terminal.

1   19. The method of claim 17, further comprising the
2 host terminal making callbacks to the client terminal.

1   20. The method of claim 17, further comprising the
2 host terminal allowing a different terminal to fill in
3 for a disconnected terminal

1   21. A medium comprising computer-interpretable
2 instructions for effecting a method for shipping/mailing
3 articles, comprising instructions for:
4   generating shipping/mailing data for one of the
5 articles at one of a plurality of client terminals which
6 are linked to a host terminal, wherein generating
7 comprises information transfer between the client
8 terminal and the host terminal; and
9   producing the shipping/mailing data for generating a
10 shipper's label.

1   22. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for printing the shipping/mailing data.

1   23. The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for encoding the shipping/mailing data in a 2-dimensional
3 bar code.

1   24.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for encrypting the data.

1   25.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for shuffling the data.

1   26.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for referring to an electronic address book in generating
3 the shipping mailing/mailing data.

1   27.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for pasting from a clipboard in generating the
3 shipping/mailing data.

1   28.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for selecting a carrier.

1   29.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for selecting a class of service.

1   30.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2 for referring to a database of valid addresses for
3 validation.

1   31.   The medium of claim 30, wherein referring to
2 the database of valid addresses yields a proposed
3 address.

1   32.   The medium of claim 20, including instructions
2 for address standardizing.

1   33.   The medium of claim 32, wherein standardizing
2 takes into account how many lines an address has.

1   34.   The medium of claim 30, wherein referring to a
2   database is for a batch of addresses.

1   35.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2   for keeping an application for servicing the client
3   running even in the absence of a request from a client
4   terminal.

1   36.   The medium of claim 35, including instructions
2   for loading a launcher application.

1   37.   The medium of claim 21, including instructions
2   for the host terminal to refer to a hardware key for
3   enforcing license compliance.

1   38.   The medium of claim 37, wherein license
2   compliance comprises compliance with a maximum number of
3   client terminals being serviced by the host terminal.

1   39.   The medium of claim 37, including instructions
2   for the host terminal to make callbacks to the client
3   terminals.

1   40.   The medium of claim 37, including instructions
2   for the host terminal to allow a different terminal to
3   fill in for a disconnected terminal.